

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00832 271120Z
ACTION NEA-11

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NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 /040 W
-----052152 272029Z /46
R 271100Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6345
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, ECRE, BTIO, SA
SUBJ: PROGRESS AT KING KHALID MILITARY CITY

1. MESSRS JACK CHRISTIANSEN AND ARA MOMJIAN OF MORRISON KNUDSEN SAUU ARWSA DISCUSSED WITH CONSOFFS ON JUNE 26 CURRENT PROGRESS AT KING KHALID MILITARY CITY AT HAFAR AL BATIN. ALREADY ABOUT 1,200 WORKERS ARE ON MKSITE PREPARING LARGER WORK CAMPS FOR SOME 3,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS EXPECTED ARRIVE BEFORE END OF YEAR.

2. ACCORDING TO MK REPS, COMPANY'S PROCUREMENT BUDGET UP TO NOVEMBER THIS YEAR IS ABOUT US DOLLARS 125 MILLION, WITH ABOUT US DOLLARS 22 MILLION TO BE PROCURED LOCALLY IN DHAHRAN AREA. OTHER MATERIALS LARGELY OF US ORIGIN TO BE PROCURED THROUGH MK OFFICES IN COLUMBIA, MARYLAND. (CONSOFFS ASKED FOR COPY OF INFORMATION BOOKLET MK HAS PREPARED ON COMPANY'S PROCUREMENT PRACTICES FOR THIS PROJECT, AND MK REPS PROMISED TO PROVIDE).

3. A MAJOR POWER SOURCE FOR SOME 240 RESIDENTIAL HOMES CURRENTLY BEING BUILT AT KKMCC WILL BE SOLAR ENERGY PLANT WITH BACKUP DEISEL-POWER GENERATORS. REPS CLAIMED
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THAT MK ITSELF WAS BUILDING SOLAR PLANT. (THIS IS A FIRST LARGE-SCALE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY THAT WE KNOW OF IN EASTERN PROVINCE).

4. LARGE SUBCONTRACTS FOR VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ON SITE EXPECTED TO BE LET BY SEPTEMBER. THESE CONTRACTS WILL BE ON FIXED PRICE BASIS, AND FIRMS

MUST BE PRE-QUALIFIED
WITH U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS AFTER GETTING
BY MK.

5. ALTHOUGH WORK ON CAMPS IS PROGRESSING ACCORDING TO
SCHEDULE (WITH SOME DELAYS DUE TO LONGER THAN EXPECTED
MATERIALS ARRIVAL), MK REPS STATED THAT CONSTANT CHANGES
BY SAG IN SCOPE OF PROJECT WERE CAUSING MK TO REVISE ITS
PLANNING SCHEDULE FREQUENTLY.

6. MK REPS PROMISED TO GIVE CONSOFFS ON SITE BRIEFING OF
PROJECT. THERE IS COMPANY PLANE FROM DHAHRAN TO KMMC AND
RETURN DAILY, AND CONSOFFS WOULD BE WELCOME TO INSPECT
AL BATIN SITE. CONSOFFS HOPE TO ACCEPT INVITATION IN NEAR
FUTURE.

7. FOR JIDDA AND RIYADH - WE ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF
EMBASSY AND USLO OFFICERS MAKING TRIP TO KMMC, AND MK
REPS SAID THEY WOULD BE WELCOME. THEY ADVISED US, HOWEVER,
THAT VENDORS WOULD NOT BE WELCOME ON THESE FLIGHTS NOR
SHOULD VENDORS MAKE TRIP TO KMMC ON THEIR OWN.

8. CONSULATE WILL POUCH COPIES OF MK PROCUREMENT
PRACTICES TO ADDRESSEES WHEN RECEIVED AND WILL REPORT
FURTHER ON PROJECT AFTER ON-SITE INSPECTION.

MEYERS
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